AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 31 and 32 are amended. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-30; (Cancelled.)

Claim 31. (Currently amended.) A variant of a parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase, comprising an alteration at one or more regions selected from the group consisting of Rregion 98-110 and Rregion 161-167,

wherein (a) the alteration(s) are independently

(i) an insertion of an amino acid downstream of the amino acid which occupies the position,

(ii) a deletion of the amino acid which occupies the position, or

(iii) a substitution of the amino acid which occupies the position with a different amino acid,

(b) the variant has alpha-amylase activity and (c) each region or position corresponds to a region or position of the amino acid sequence of the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 32. (Currently amended.) The variant of Claim 31, wherein the variant further includes the following substitution: Q153S.

Claim 33. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant has improved thermostability and/or increased stability at acidic pH.

Claim 34. (Previously presented.) A composition for producing high maltose syrup comprising the variant of claim 31.

Claim 35. (Previously presented..) A dough improving composition, comprising the variant of claim 31.

Claim 36. (Previously presented.) A brewing composition, comprising the variant of claim 31.

Claim 37. (Previously presented.) The brewing composition of claim 41, further comprising at least one enzyme selected from the group consisting of beta-amylase and isoamylase enzymes.

Claim 38. (Previously presented.) A composition for producing alcohol, comprising the variant of claim 31.

Claim 39. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31 wherein said variant is immobilized.

Claim 40. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the alteration is an alteration in Region 98-110.

Claim 41. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the alteration is an alteration in Region 161-167.

Claim 42. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase has at least 70% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 43. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase has at least 80% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 44. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase has at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 45 (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase has at least 93% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 46 (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase has at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 47. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase has at least 97% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 48. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase has at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.